

## Employment of young adults

*The rate of employment within a population group is affected by a variety of factors. Some factors influence the willingness of employers to offer jobs to individuals with different levels of education at the going wage rate, while others influence the willingness of individuals to take jobs at this wage rate. The percentage of young adults who are employed is an indication of the advantages employment offers to these individuals relative to other pursuits.*

- Generally, between 1971 and 1997, the percentage of 25- to 34-year-olds who were employed was higher among those individuals with a higher level of education. In 1997, male and female college graduates ages 25–34 were more likely to be employed than their counterparts who did not finish high school.
- Between 1971 and 1997, the percentage of males ages 25–34 who were employed decreased for those who had not finished high school and those with a high school diploma or GED, and remained similar for those with some college and those with a bachelor's degree. The percentage of females ages 25–34 who were employed increased for every level of educational attainment.
- In 1997, the percentage of females ages 25–34 who were employed was higher than that in 1971, regardless of education level. However, the percentage of females with a high school diploma, GED, or higher who were employed increased at a faster rate than the percentage of females with less than a high school diploma or GED.

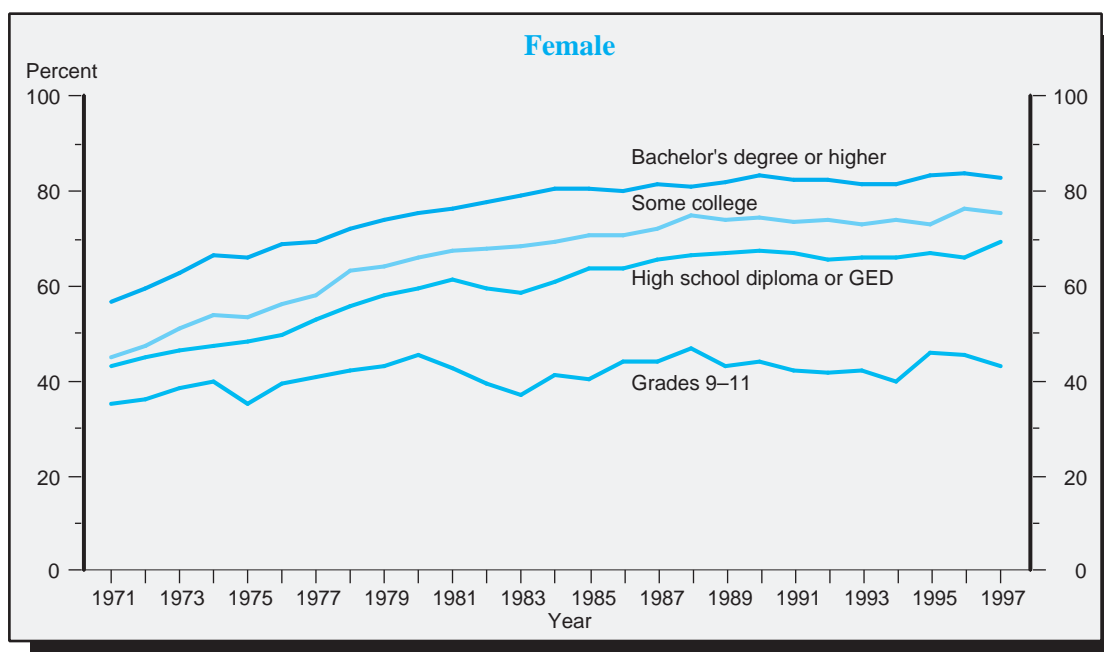
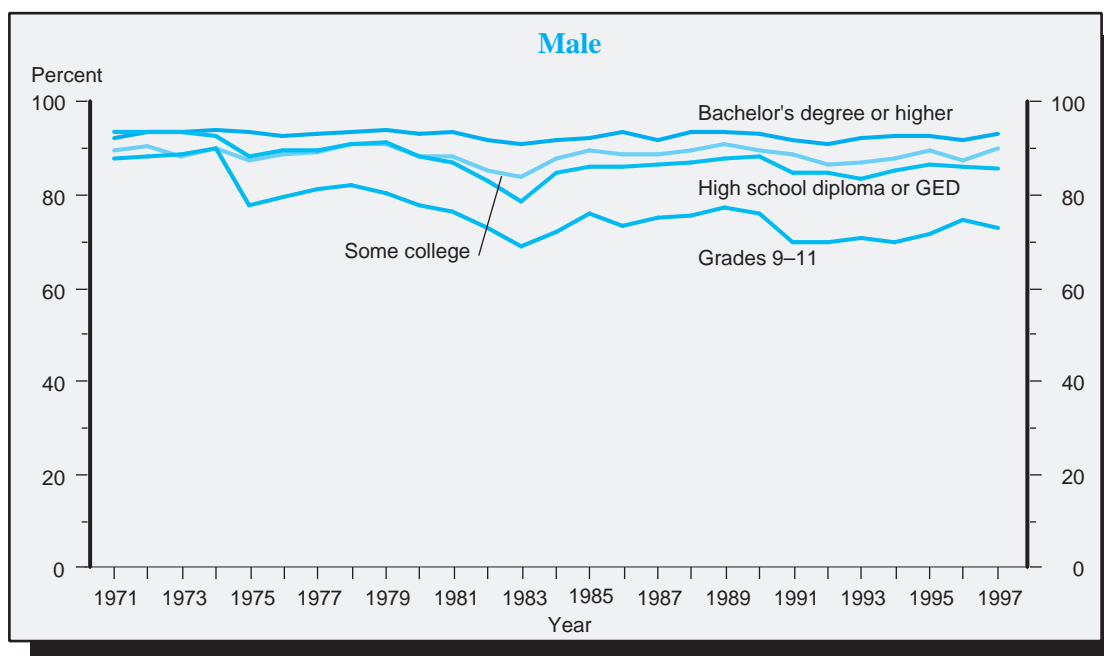
### Percentage of 25- to 34-year-olds who were employed, by sex and years of school completed: March 1971–97

	Male				Female			
	Grades 9–11	High school diploma or GED	Some college	Bachelor's degree or higher	Grades 9–11	High school diploma or GED	Some college	Bachelor's degree or higher
1971	87.9	93.6	89.9	92.5	35.4	43.1	44.9	56.9
1973	88.8	93.8	88.5	93.5	38.4	46.5	51.0	62.7
1975	78.0	88.4	87.7	93.5	35.4	48.1	53.6	66.3
1977	81.5	89.5	89.1	93.3	41.0	53.0	58.0	69.5
1979	80.5	91.3	90.9	94.1	43.2	58.0	64.2	74.0
1981	76.7	86.9	88.5	93.7	42.7	61.3	67.6	76.4
1983	69.3	78.6	83.8	91.1	37.1	58.8	68.3	79.2
1985	76.1	86.1	89.7	92.2	40.3	63.9	71.0	80.6
1987	75.0	86.8	89.0	92.1	44.0	65.6	72.2	81.4
1989	77.6	87.8	91.1	93.7	43.0	66.9	74.0	82.1
1990	76.0	88.6	89.7	93.0	44.4	67.5	74.5	83.2
1991	69.9	84.9	88.6	91.8	42.3	67.0	73.5	82.6
1992	69.9	84.7	86.7	90.9	41.7	65.4	74.0	82.5
1993	71.0	83.6	87.2	92.3	42.2	66.0	73.0	81.6
1994	70.0	85.2	88.0	92.8	40.1	66.2	74.3	81.6
1995	71.8	86.6	89.6	92.9	45.8	67.2	73.0	83.4
1996	74.9	86.3	87.6	92.1	45.5	66.3	76.4	83.7
1997	73.0	85.6	90.0	93.0	43.1	69.6	75.3	83.1

NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) questions used to obtain educational attainment were changed in 1992. See the supplemental note to *Indicator 22* for further discussion.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Surveys.

**Percentage of 25- to 34-year-olds who were employed,  
by sex and years of school completed: March 1971–97**



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SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Surveys.

Table S31

Standard errors for the text table in *Indicator 31*

	Male				Female			
	Grades 9-11	High school diploma or GED	Some college	Bachelor's degree or higher	Grades 9-11	High school diploma or GED	Some college	Bachelor's degree or higher
March								
1971	1.2	0.5	1.0	0.8	1.5	0.9	1.7	1.8
1973	1.1	0.5	1.0	0.7	1.5	0.9	1.6	1.6
1975	1.5	0.6	0.9	0.6	1.5	0.9	1.5	1.3
1977	1.5	0.6	0.8	0.6	1.6	0.9	1.3	1.2
1979	1.5	0.6	0.7	0.5	1.7	0.9	1.2	1.1
1981	1.5	0.6	0.7	0.5	1.7	0.8	1.1	1.0
1983	1.8	0.8	0.9	0.6	1.7	0.8	1.1	1.0
1985	1.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	1.8	0.8	1.1	0.9
1987	1.5	0.6	0.8	0.6	1.8	0.8	1.0	0.9
1989	1.6	0.6	0.8	0.6	2.0	0.8	1.1	0.9
1990	1.5	0.6	0.8	0.6	1.9	0.8	1.0	0.9
1991	1.7	0.6	0.8	0.6	1.8	0.8	1.1	0.9
1992	1.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.8	0.9	1.0	0.9
1993	1.7	0.7	0.8	0.6	1.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
1994	1.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	1.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
1995	1.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	2.0	0.9	0.9	0.9
1996	1.7	0.7	0.8	0.6	2.1	1.0	0.9	0.9
1997	1.7	0.8	0.7	0.6	2.1	1.0	1.0	0.9

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Surveys.